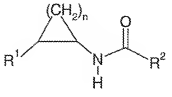
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula I,



I

wherein:

R^1 is aryl ~~or heteroaryl~~, ~~each of~~ which is optionally substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6-alkyl, halogen, CF_3, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylmercapto, -CN, $COOR^{10}$, $CONR^{11}R^{12}$, $NR^{13}R^{14}$, $S(O)_mR^{15}$ or $S(O)_2NR^{16}R^{17}$;

R^2 is ~~aryl or heteroaryl~~, oxazolyl, thiazolyl or pyrrolyl, each of which is optionally substituted one or more times by:

halogen, -CN, $-NH_2$, C_3-C_8-alkandiyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, aryl-substituted C_1-C_4-alkyl, heteroaryl-substituted C_1-C_4-alkyl, $-CF_3$, $-NO_2$, -OH, phenoxy, benzyloxy, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-COO-, $-S(O)_mR^{20}$, -SH, phenylamino, benzylamino, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-CONH-, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, phenyl-CONH-, phenyl-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, heteroaryl-CONH-, heteroaryl-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-CO-, phenyl-CO-, heteroaryl-CO-, CF_3-CO-, $-OCH_2O$-, $-OCF_2O$-, $-OCH_2CH_2O$-, $-CH_2CH_2O$-, $-COOR^{21}$, $-CONR^{22}R^{23}$, -C(NH)-NH_2, $-SO_2NR^{24}R^{25}$, $R^{26}SO_2NH$-, $R^{27}SO_2N(C_1$-C_6-alkyl)-,

optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, optionally substituted C_2-C_{10}-alkenyl, optionally substituted C_2-C_{10}-alkynyl, optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkoxy, optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkylamino, optionally substituted di(C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)amino, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of F, OH, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8-alkylmercapto, NH_2, C_1-C_8-alkylamino and di(C_1-C_8-alkyl)amino, or

a residue of a saturated or partially unsaturated aliphatic monocyclic 5- to 7-membered heterocycle containing 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, wherein the heterocycle is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy, OH, oxo or CF_3, and wherein the heterocycle is optionally condensed to the aryl group or heteroaryl group representing R^2, and

wherein for each ~~aryl or heteroaryl~~ oxazolyl, thiazolyl or pyrrolyl as R^2 bearing an aryl, heteroaryl, phenyl, aryl-containing, heteroaryl-containing or phenyl-containing group as an optional substituent, that each aryl, heteroaryl, phenyl, aryl-containing, heteroaryl-containing and phenyl-

containing group is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, OH, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{10} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or benzyl, wherein the phenyl group of the benzyl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{11} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl, which is optionally substituted by phenyl, phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{12} is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^{13} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl,
optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted benzyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted phenyl-CO-, or optionally substituted heteroaryl-CO-, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy and CF_3;

R^{14} is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^{15} is C_1-C_6-alkyl, CF_3,
optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy and CF_3;

R^{16} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl, which is optionally substituted by phenyl, phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl, and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{17} is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^{20} is C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8-alkylmercapto, C_1-C_8-alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_8-alkyl)amino, CF_3,
optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy and CF_3;

R^{21} is H.

C_3-C_{10}-alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_8-alkoxy or di(C_1-C_8-alkyl)amino,

aryl-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)- or heteroaryl-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, wherein each of the aryl-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)- or heteroaryl-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)- is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino;

R^{22} is H, C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, di(C_1-C_8-alkyl)amino or phenyl,

phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{23} is H or C_1-C_{10}-alkyl;

R^{24} is H, C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, di(C_1-C_8-alkyl)amino or phenyl,

phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{25} is H or C_1-C_{10}-alkyl;

R^{26} is C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8-alkylmercapto, C_1-C_8-alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_8-alkyl)amino, CF_3,

optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy and CF_3;

R^{27} is C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8-alkylmercapto, C_1-C_8-alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_8-alkyl)amino, CF_3,

optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy and CF_3;

wherein heteroaryl is a residue of a 5-membered to 10-membered, aromatic, monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S;

wherein aryl is phenyl, naphth-1-yl or naphth-2-yl;

m is 0, 1 or 2; and

n is 1, ~~2, or 3 or 4~~;

or a stereoisomer or a mixture of stereoisomers in any ratio of the compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound, stereoisomer or mixture of stereoisomers of the compound;

~~provided that when R^4 is unsubstituted phenyl, then R^2 is other than unsubstituted phenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 3-methoxyphenyl, chlorosubstituted 4H-thieno[3,2-b]pyrrol-5-yl, unsubsiituted thienyl, naphthyridinyl, unsubstituted pyridinyl, 3-hydroxy-4-methoxypyridin-2-yl, 2,6-dichloropyridin-4-yl or 3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl~~.

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is optionally substituted phenyl.

3. (Cancelled)

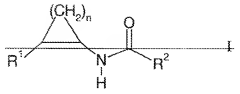
4. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 1.

5. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 3.

6. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is ~~phenyl or heteroaryl,~~ oxazolyl, thiazolyl or pyrrolyl, each of which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, Cl, Br, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxymethyl, 2-amino-3,3,3-trifluoropropyl-, CF_3, C_3-C_5-alkandiyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, benzyl, heteroaryl-methyl-, OH, C_1-C_3-alkoxy, phenoxy, trifluoromethoxy, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy, (C_1-C_4-alkyl)-COO, C_1-C_3-alkylmercapto, phenylmercapto, C_1-C_3-alkylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, NH_2, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, (C_1-C_3-alkyl)-CONH-, (C_1-C_3-alkyl)-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_3-alkyl)-CO-, phenyl-CO-, -OCH_2O-, -OCF_2O-, -CH_2CH_2O-, COO(C_1-C_4-alkyl), -$CONH_2$, -CONH(C_1-C_4-alkyl), -CON(di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)), -CN, -SO_2NH_2, -SO_2NH(C_1-C_4-alkyl), -SO_2N(di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)), pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl or thiomorpholinyl, and

wherein for each ~~aryl or heteroaryl~~ oxazolyl, thiazolyl or pyrrolyl as R^2 bearing an heteroaryl, phenyl, heteroaryl-containing or phenyl-containing group as an optional substituent, that each heteroaryl, phenyl, heteroaryl-containing and phenyl-containing group is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, OH, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3.

7. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical ~~preparation~~composition, comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of ~~a~~the compound according to claim 1~~of formula I~~.



wherein:

R^3 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6-alkyl, halogen, CF_3, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylmercapto, -CN, $COOR^{10}$, $CONR^{11}R^{12}$, $NR^{13}R^{14}$, $S(O)_mR^{15}$, or $S(O)_2NR^{16}R^{17}$;

R^3 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, -NH_2, C_3-C_8-alkandiyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, aryl substituted C_1-C_4-alkyl, heteroaryl substituted C_1-C_4-alkyl, CF_3, NO_2, OH, phenoxy, benzyloxy, $(C_1$-C_{10}-alkyl)-COO-, $S(O)_mR^{30}$, -SH, phenylamino, benzylamino, $(C_1$-C_{10}-alkyl)-CONH-, $(C_1$-C_{10}-alkyl)-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, phenyl-CONH-, phenyl-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, heteroaryl-CONH-, heteroaryl-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, $(C_1$-C_{10}-alkyl)-CO-, phenyl-CO-, heteroaryl-CO-, CF_3-CO-, OCH_2O-, OCF_2O-, OCH_2CH_2O-, CH_2CH_2O-, $COOR^{31}$, $CONR^{32}R^{33}$, -C(NH)-NH_2, -$SO_3NR^{34}R^{35}$, $R^{36}SO_2NH$-, $R^{37}SO_2N(C_1$-C_6-alkyl)-,

optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, optionally substituted C_2-C_{10}-alkenyl, optionally substituted C_2-C_{10}-alkynyl, optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkoxy, optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkylamino, optionally substituted di(C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)amino, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of F, OH, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_6-alkylmercapto, NH_2, C_1-C_6-alkylamino and di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino, or

a residue of a saturated or partially unsaturated aliphatic monocyclic 5- to 7-membered heterocycle containing 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, wherein the heterocycle is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, OH, oxo or CF_3, and wherein the heterocycle is optionally condensed to the aryl group or heteroaryl group representing R^3, and

wherein for each aryl or heteroaryl as R^3 bearing an aryl, heteroaryl, phenyl, aryl containing, heteroaryl containing or phenyl containing group as an optional substituent, that each aryl, heteroaryl, phenyl, aryl containing, heteroaryl containing and phenyl containing group is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{10} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or benzyl, wherein the phenyl group of the benzyl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{11} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl, which is optionally substituted by phenyl, phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;

~~R^{12} is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl;~~

~~R^{13} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl,~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted benzyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted phenyl-CO-, or optionally substituted heteroaryl-CO-, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~R^{14} is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl;~~

~~R^{15} is C_1-C_6-alkyl, CF_3,~~
~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~R^{16} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl, which is optionally substituted by phenyl, phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl, and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{17} is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl;~~

~~R^{20} is C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_6-alkylmercapto, C_1-C_2-alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_3-alkyl)amino, CF_3,~~
~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~R^{21} is H;~~
~~C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_6-alkoxy or di(C_1-C_3-alkyl)amino;~~
~~aryl-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)- or heteroaryl-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, wherein each of the aryl-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)- or heteroaryl-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)- is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino;~~

~~R^{22} is H, C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino or phenyl,~~
~~phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{23} is H or C_1-C_{10} alkyl;~~

~~R^{24} is H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, di(C_1-C_8 alkyl)amino or phenyl;~~

~~phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{25} is H or C_1-C_{10} alkyl;~~

~~R^{26} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8 alkylmercapto, C_1-C_8 alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_8 alkyl)amino, CF_3;~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~R^{27} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8 alkylmercapto, C_1-C_8 alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_8 alkyl)amino, CF_3;~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~wherein heteroaryl is a residue of a 5-membered to 10-membered, aromatic, monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S;~~

~~wherein aryl is phenyl, naphth-1-yl or naphth-2-yl;~~

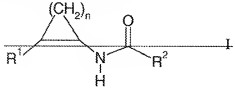
~~m is 0, 1 or 2; and~~

~~n is 1, 2, 3 or 4;~~

or a stereoisomer or a mixture of stereoisomers in any ratio of the compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound, stereoisomer or mixture of stereoisomers of the compound,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method for the stimulation of the expression of endothelial NO synthase, in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to such patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of athe compound according to claim 1of formula I,



wherein:

R^1 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6-alkyl, halogen, CF_3, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylmercapto, CN, $COOR^{30}$, $CONR^{31}R^{32}$, $NR^{17}R^{14}$, $S(O)_mR^{45}$ or $S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$;

R^2 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, NH_2, C_3-C_5-alkandiyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, aryl substituted C_1-C_4-alkyl, heteroaryl substituted C_1-C_4-alkyl, CF_3, NO_2, OH, phenoxy, benzyloxy, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-COO-, $S(O)_mR^{36}$, -SH, phenylamino, benzylamino, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-CONH-, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, phenyl-CONH-, phenyl-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, heteroaryl-CONH-, heteroaryl-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-CO-, phenyl-CO-, heteroaryl-CO-, CF_3-CO-, OCH_2O-, OCF_2O-, OCH_2CH_2O-, CH_2CH_2O-, $COOR^{21}$, $CONR^{22}R^{23}$, -C(NH)-NH_2, $-SO_3NR^{24}R^{25}$, $-R^{26}SO_3NH$-, $R^{27}SO_2N(C_1$-C_6-alkyl)-,

optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, optionally substituted C_2-C_{10}-alkenyl, optionally substituted C_2-C_{10}-alkynyl, optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkoxy, optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkylamino, optionally substituted di(C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)amino, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of F, OH, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_6-alkylmercapto, NH_2, C_1-C_6-alkylamino and di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino, or

a residue of a saturated or partially unsaturated aliphatic monocyclic 5- to 7-membered heterocycle containing 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, wherein the heterocycle is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, OH, oxo or CF_3, and wherein the heterocycle is optionally condensed to the aryl group or heteroaryl group representing R^2, and

wherein for each aryl or heteroaryl as R^2 bearing an aryl, heteroaryl, phenyl, aryl-containing, heteroaryl-containing or phenyl containing group as an optional substituent, that each aryl, heteroaryl, phenyl, aryl-containing, heteroaryl-containing and phenyl containing group is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{10} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or benzyl, wherein the phenyl group of the benzyl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{11} is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl, which is optionally substituted by phenyl, phenyl, indanyl or

heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_2 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{12} is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^{13} is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl,

optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted benzyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted phenyl CO , or optionally substituted heteroaryl CO , wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, CN, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy and CF_3;

R^{14} is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^{15} is C_1-C_6 alkyl, CF_3,

optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, CN, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy and CF_3;

R^{16} is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, which is optionally substituted by phenyl, phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl, and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;

R^{17} is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^{20} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_3 alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_6 alkylmercapto, C_1-C_3 alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_3 alkyl)amino, CF_3,

optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy and CF_3,

R^{21} is H,

C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or di(C_1-C_3 alkyl)amino,

aryl (C_1-C_4 alkyl) or heteroaryl (C_1-C_4 alkyl) , wherein each of the aryl (C_1-C_4 alkyl) or heteroaryl (C_1-C_4 alkyl) is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy or di(C_1-C_6 alkyl)amino;

~~R^{20} is H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, di(C_1-C_8 alkyl)amino or phenyl,~~

~~phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{23} is H or C_1-C_{10} alkyl;~~

~~R^{24} is H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, di(C_1-C_8 alkyl)amino or phenyl,~~

~~phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{25} is H or C_1-C_{10} alkyl;~~

~~R^{26} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8 alkylmercapto, C_1-C_8 alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_8 alkyl)amino, CF_3,~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy and CF_3,~~

~~R^{27} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8 alkylmercapto, C_1-C_8 alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_8 alkyl)amino, CF_3,~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy and CF_3,~~

~~wherein heteroaryl is a residue of a 5-membered to 10-membered, aromatic, monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S;~~

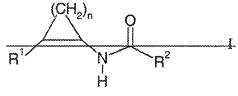
~~wherein aryl is phenyl, naphth-1-yl or naphth-2-yl;~~

~~m is 0, 1 or 2; and~~

~~n is 1, 2, 3 or 4;~~

or a stereoisomer or a mixture of stereoisomers in any ratio of the compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound, stereoisomer or mixture of stereoisomers of the compound.

9. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method for treatment of cardiovascular diseases, stable or unstable angina pectoris, coronary heart disease, Prinzmetal angina, acute coronary syndrome, heart failure, myocardial infarction, stroke, thrombosis, peripheral artery occlusive disease, endothelial dysfunction, atherosclerosis, restenosis, endothel damage after PTCA, hypertension, essential hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, secondary hypertension, renovascular hypertension, chronic glomerulonephritis, erectile dysfunction, ventricular arrhythmia, diabetes, diabetes complications, nephropathy, retinopathy, angiogenesis, asthma bronchiale, chronic renal failure, cirrhosis of the liver, osteoporosis, restricted memory performance or a restricted ability to learn, or for the lowering of cardiovascular risk of postmenopausal women or of women taking contraceptives, in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to such patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of athe compound according to claim 1of formula I,



~~wherein:~~

~~R^1 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6-alkyl, halogen, CF_3, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylmercapto, CN, $COOR^{29}$, $CONR^{31}R^{32}$, $NR^{31}R^{32}$, $S(O)_mR^{35}$ or $S(O)_2NR^{36}R^{37}$;~~

~~R^2 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, NH_2, C_1-C_8-alkandiyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, aryl substituted C_1-C_4-alkyl, heteroaryl substituted C_1-C_4-alkyl, CF_3, NO_2, OH, phenoxy, benzyloxy, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-COO-, $S(O)_mR^{20}$, SH, phenylamino, benzylamino, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-CONH-, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, phenyl-CONH-, phenyl-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, heteroaryl-CONH-, heteroaryl-CO-N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-, (C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)-CO-, phenyl-CO-, heteroaryl-CO-, CF_3-CO-, OCH_2O-, OCF_2O-, OCH_2CH_2O-, CH_2CH_2O-, $COOR^{24}$-, $CONR^{23}R^{22}$-, C(NH)-NH_2, $SO_2NR^{24}R^{25}$, $R^{26}SO_2NH$-, $R^{27}SO_2N(C_1$-C_6-alkyl)-;~~

~~optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, optionally substituted C_3-C_{10}-alkenyl, optionally substituted C_3-C_{10}-alkynyl, optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkoxy, optionally substituted C_1-C_{10}-alkylamino, optionally substituted di(C_1-C_{10}-alkyl)amino, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of F, OH, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8-alkylmercapto, NH_2, C_1-C_8-alkylamino and di(C_1-C_8-alkyl)amino, or~~

~~a residue of a saturated or partially unsaturated aliphatic monocycle 5- to 7-membered heterocycle containing 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, wherein the heterocycle is~~

~~optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, OH, oxo or CF_3, and wherein the heterocycle is optionally condensed to the aryl group or heteroaryl group representing R^2, and~~

~~wherein for each aryl or heteroaryl as R^2 bearing an aryl, heteroaryl, phenyl, aryl containing, heteroaryl containing or phenyl containing group as an optional substituent, that each aryl, heteroaryl, phenyl, aryl containing, heteroaryl containing and phenyl containing group is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_4 alkyl, OH, C_1-C_4 alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{10} is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl or benzyl, wherein the phenyl group of the benzyl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{11} is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, which is optionally substituted by phenyl, phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{12} is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;~~

~~R^{13} is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl,~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted benzyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted phenyl CO , or optionally substituted heteroaryl CO , wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~R^{14} is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;~~

~~R^{15} is C_1-C_6 alkyl, CF_3,~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted substituents are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~R^{16} is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, which is optionally substituted by phenyl, phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl, and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{17} is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;~~

~~R^{20} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_3 alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_8 alkylmercapto, C_1-C_8 alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_8 alkyl)amino.~~

~~CF_3;~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~R^{21} is H,~~

~~C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_4 alkoxy or di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino;~~

~~aryl (C_1-C_4 alkyl) or heteroaryl (C_1-C_4 alkyl), wherein each of the aryl (C_1-C_4 alkyl) or heteroaryl (C_1-C_4 alkyl) is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy or di(C_1-C_6 alkyl)amino;~~

~~R^{22} is H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, di(C_1-C_6 alkyl)amino or phenyl;~~

~~phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{23} is H or C_1-C_{10} alkyl;~~

~~R^{24} is H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, di(C_1-C_6 alkyl)amino or phenyl;~~

~~phenyl, indanyl or heteroaryl, wherein each phenyl, indanyl and heteroaryl is optionally substituted one or more times by halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or CF_3;~~

~~R^{25} is H or C_1-C_{10} alkyl;~~

~~R^{26} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_6 alkylmercapto, C_1-C_6 alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_6 alkyl)amino, CF_3;~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~R^{27} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, which is optionally substituted one or more times by F, OH, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, aryloxy, C_1-C_6 alkylmercapto, C_1-C_6 alkylamino, or di(C_1-C_6 alkyl)amino, CF_3;~~

~~optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein the optional substituents of the optionally substituted phenyl and heteroaryl are selected from one or more of the group consisting of halogen, -CN, C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkoxy and CF_3;~~

~~wherein heteroaryl is a residue of a 5-membered to 10-membered, aromatic, monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S;~~

~~wherein aryl is phenyl, naphth-1-yl or naphth-2-yl;~~

~~m is 0, 1 or 2, and~~

~~n is 1, 2, 3 or 4;~~

or a stereoisomer or a mixture of stereoisomers in any ratio of the compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound, stereoisomer or mixture of stereoisomers of the compound.